ABSTRACT
Networks have attracted lots of attention, knowledge flows within network had proved to have impact on creativity. Yet recently studies of evolution and evidence of networks' benefits still scarce. This study collected patent data to investigate the effect of interpersonal network on innovation. The model reveals the regional collaboration networks between inventors have significant impact on increasing regional patent output. This study finds that both shorter path lengths and larger connected components will increase innovation output. Present study also discusses the theoretical and managerial implications, and proposed some suggestions for future researches.

Keywords : social networks, innovation, regional advantage

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